



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the citizens of Foggy Bottom

March 1984

Volume 29, No. 2

The Demolition of Immaculate Conception Academy

By Elizabeth Charette

About 35 years ago, Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) and the Daughters of Charity moved from 8th and Q Streets, NW into the old St. Stephen's school at the corner of 24th and K Streets, NW. Over the years, they have become a familiar sight and have contributed much to the life of the Foggy Bottom-West End neighborhood.

Early risers could always see nine navy blue-clad sisters tiptoeing through the mist at dawn, returning to the convent at 2408 K Street each morning from the early mass at St. Stephen's. They not only became a part of St. Stephen-Martyr Roman Catholic Church on 25th Street, but shared many things (ladders, a lay teacher, a custodian) with St. Paul's Episcopal Church on K Street. Neighborhood women enjoyed evening aerobics classes in the auditorium of the school. Sometimes the Foggy Bottom Association met in the school's basement.

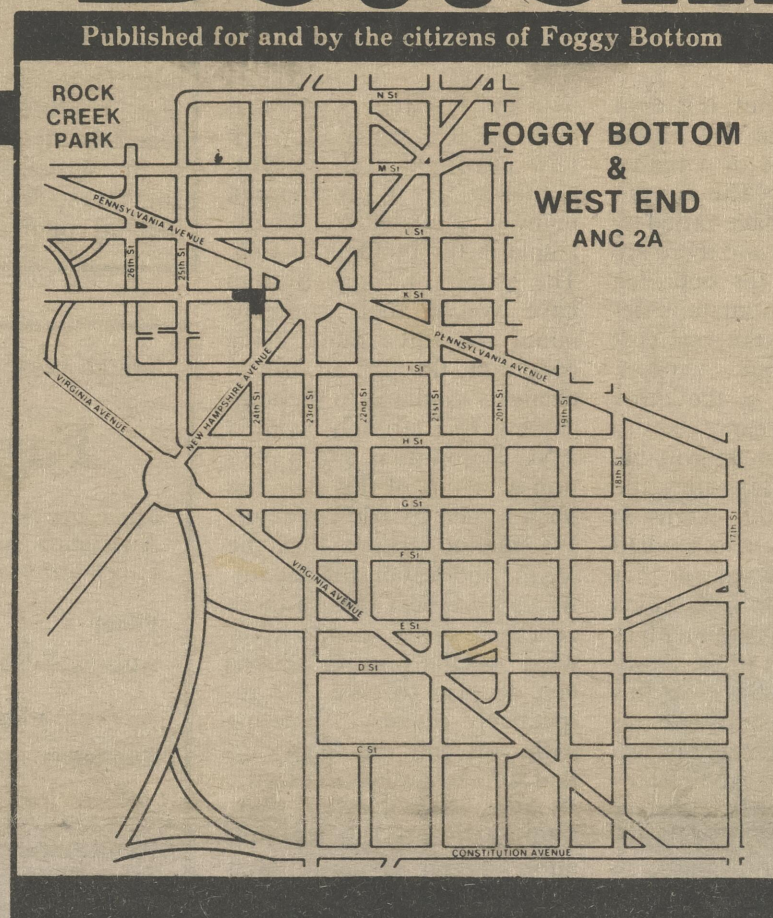
"We loved being close to downtown and the Kennedy Center," reminisced Sister Helen Hogarty. "It was so easy to plan trips for our 240 girls. Our English and social studies classes flourished."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, however, had other plans for ICA. Msgr. John F. Donoghue, chancellor of the Archdiocese, explained in a letter to parents dated 30 December 1983 that the Archdiocese was very anxious to provide quality education for the girls of Washington and that ICA would be merged with St. Anthony's High School in the Fall to form the new All Saints High School in Northeast Washington. The creation of All Saints High School depended on selling the ICA properties to finance the approximately \$2.5 million construction of an addition to St. Anthony's.

The Archdiocese sent out notice of the sale of the properties in December 1982 to all the major development firms in the area. The first formal offer for the property did not come for almost a year, along with a stipulation that the property be vacated by 7 January, just one week after girls returned from their Christmas holiday.

Sister Marcella Scully, principal, told students of the move on 3 January. The next two days they came to school and helped teachers pack up. The school would move to Colmar Manor Elementary School, 3805 Lawrence Street in Hyattsville, Maryland for the rest of the year. The sisters would stay at the St. Anne of the Infant House, also in Hyattsville.

Many people helped with the move—people from St. Stephen's parish, people from the



From the Editor

Maria Tyler is the woman of the hour. Thanks to her zeal and extraordinary commitment of personal time we are ninety nine percent certain of a permanent ban on buses on residential streets in Foggy Bottom. It has been a long and arduous process and Maria has carried the banner throughout. She has used every one of her many talents to represent our best interests in every forum where the bus ban was discussed and she proved herself an outstanding advocate for the community and a formidable opponent to those who seek to destroy the residential character of our neighborhood. Maria, we salute you. Although Maria was the most visible advocate to many of us, of equal importance is acknowledgement of the major contributions of time and talent made by Murdaugh Madden, Mary Brewster and Lila Roper. Geoffrey Tyler, we also recognize the great contribution you have made by tolerating the disruption to your home life that Maria's work must have caused.

If Maria Tyler is the woman of the hour, then Rick Churchill is the Man of the Hour. Whether working at the ANC office, presiding as President of the Foggy Bottom Association, seeking historical district status for our neighborhood or racing to the scene of a crime as a member of the Neighborhood Watch, during the past two years Rick has been a vital and visual part of our neighborhood. He has given an extraordinary amount of his time to these endeavors and has made an invaluable contribution to the neighborhood. Rick is moving to New York at the end of the month and will become a business agent for the Musicians' Union. He will also be resuming his role as a full time partner in marriage to Kathy Haley, a role that has been subject to weekend commutes for the past year and one-half. In order to honor Rick we will hold a Farewell to Rick reception following the guest speaker at the next Foggy Bottom Association meeting. So mark your calendar for 8:00 PM March 26, 1984 at St. Paul's Parish House.

Deborah Cahill Zebinka

Bus Ban Upheld

by Maria Tyler

On February 9, 1984 the Report of the Chief Hearing Examiner, Mr. Robert A. Andretta, was released, containing the recommendations concerning our bus ban, based on testimony heard during a hearing which commenced on February 10, 1982 and ended on September 7, 1982. The hearing was conducted in response to an Order dated October 13, 1981 by Superior Court Judge Donald S. Smith in Civil Action No. 8020-81, Alamac, Inc., t/a The River Inn, Plaintiff, versus Thomas M. Downs, Director, District of Columbia Department of Transportation and Burtell M. Jefferson, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, Defendants. The October 13, 1981 Order was preceded by the Court's denials of Plaintiff's requests for a Temporary Restraining Order and subsequently for a Preliminary Injunction against D.C. DOT rulemaking, Director's Order 80-174 of May 15, 1981, which prohibited buses from specified streets in our Foggy Bottom neighborhood, in response to a petition by residents in the affected area dated April 14, 1980, and subsequent ANC Resolutions and follow-up letters by residents.

Mr. Andretta concludes that "Department of Transportation Order 80-174 relating to bus restrictions on 25th, 26th, and I Streets, N.W., is appropriate, reasonable, and legally sound. Its rules should be promulgated as ordinary, permanent traffic regulations." The Hearing Examiner's opinion spans over 60 pages and includes another 60 pages of supporting data, including 287 exhibits. While there is not sufficient space to describe in detail the basis of the Examiner's decision, the following excerpts from his recommendation epitomize some of his reasoning:

"The disruption caused by tour buses prior to their being banned was more than a minor inconvenience to residents. It intruded into their daily lives. Tour buses droned loudly and belched smoke at residents when they went to work and again in the evening when they returned home. They blocked the way, causing people to be late to their destinations and delaying their returns to their homes. They were present most when residents tried to enjoy the environment surrounding their homes during spring and summer evenings and on weekends throughout the year.

"The River Inn has a right to continue to function and operate as a hotel. No rule to date has diminished that right. But, in light of the District's policy to preserve the residential nature of

Continued, page 8

Continued, page 8

Open Letter from Chairman of ANC2A to the Deputy Mayor for Operations

Dear Mr. Downs:

We refer to your letter of January 10, 1984 and to Mr. Touchstone's letter of January 4, 1984, as well as his standard reply to those residents who have written the Mayor on the above subject.

Residents cannot accept the "status of the tunnel as an option that can be reviewed in the future, should funding become available," when that option is not given full treatment in the Environmental Impact Statement, and we urge you to reconsider. If it were included fully in the EIS, residents might believe that, even if it were not proposed as part of the Mayor's final decision, at least the groundwork had been laid so that "later on" it would be possible to proceed rapidly when funds become available because the situation was indeed being taken seriously. On DOT's present position, residents are deeply concerned that the Mayor's intention, for all practical purposes, is never to do anything for our residential area of the Whitehurst.

Again, we wish to bring to your attention that the street at that intersection was widened in the early 1960s for the benefit of the commuter and to the detriment of the public safety and welfare of residents. The tunnel should have been installed then, of course. Since then the adverse traffic impact has increased enormously. We strongly believe that the residents' rights in D.C. have changed for the better since the early 1960s, and that participation of neighborhoods in the Whitehurst Freeway Study Committee was invited to take account of concerns of residents. Consequently, we cannot understand why this excellent opportunity to finally rectify the situation is being so readily abandoned.

The main points made in the replies we have received relate to (1) the alleged cost of a tunnel, and an assertion that the tunnel concept has been studied twice and discarded because of cost and because safety factors could be covered by non-tunnel designs, (2) the tunnel is not needed to make transportation changes called for at the east end of the alternatives, and (3) the judgment that the only improvements of an extension of the present tunnel relate to noise and esthetics, and that "safe restrictions in transportation" would provide protection to pedestri-

ans. From this you conclude that no analysis of the tunnel alternative need be included in the EIS but that this does not close "the door to separate study of the tunnel issue later on."

On the first point, it is clear that no complete and objective cost analysis of a tunnel has been made. The consultant's estimates have varied by over 200 percent and there are strong grounds for believing that his lowest estimate is significantly above the real cost of an "economy" version. Other elements in the three new alternatives carry costs in excess of any reasonably costed tunnel. Regarding the statement that the extension of the tunnel has been studied twice, it is clearly not true that the initial study in 1982 which was no more than rudimentary took any account of the depth of residents' feelings on this matter. This depth of feelings was only later reflected in two petitions and two ANC Resolutions, when it became clear that plans then proposed provided for no improvement in the intolerable traffic situation in the residential portion of K Street. Concerning safety factors, namely that it was "learned that safe restrictions in transportation access for pedestrians and vehicles at the 25th and K Streets intersection could be made without the tunnel" residents cannot accept this assertion because it is not true. The danger to pedestrians arises principally because they have to cross a street (K Street) with an enormous volume of fast moving through traffic that will exist under all the alternatives that do not include a tunnel.

On the second and third points, it is not the case that only transportation movements must be taken into account in the Freeway Study. Environmental considerations are at the heart of the Environmental Impact Statement. Moreover, the adverse environmental impact on the residential area extend far beyond "noise and aesthetics" considerations. In particular, they extend to damage to properties by vibrations from heavy trucks, air pollution from the enormous volume of above ground traffic, including intolerable clouds of diesel fumes from trucks, and the above noted excessive danger to pedestrians crossing K Street. Regarding the level of noise generated by these trucks, suffice it to say that residents are

forced to resort to such devices as keeping TV sets going at high volumes continuously or fans that produce constant noise. The mental stress involved is enormous.

Residents' dissatisfaction with the K Street situation is even greater when they see how environmental concerns are taken care of elsewhere in highway construction, for example in the building of I-66. The people of Foggy Bottom have voiced their concerns about the unbearable living conditions through all official channels available to them including two strongly worded ANC Resolutions and a petition which as of this date has been signed by 800 residents. We cannot believe that the Mayor and responsible city officials have deaf ears to these concerns, so we need to know what specific positive actions you do plan to take. We respectfully request a meeting with you and the Mayor so that we can discuss the traffic situation and develop some solution to alleviate the situation without having to await an unspecified date "later on."

In the meantime, you can be sure that this ANC will continue to work with D.C. DOT officials and others, and will participate fully in the consideration of all transportation-related matters that affect the Foggy Bottom and West End areas.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Stamm
Chair, ANC 2A
343-2773 (o)
965-5139 (h)

Maria Tyler
Commissioner ANC 2A03
Chair, Transportation
Committee ANC 2A
473-8314 (o)
337-7896 (h)

MEETING FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION GUEST SPEAKER CHARLES FORTNEY

Chief of Real Property Assessment
Office of the D.C. Tax Assessor

Monday, March 26, 1984
St. Paul's Parish House
2430 K Street N.W.
8:00 P.M.

A Victory for 925 25th Street Tenants Association

The 925 25th Street Tenants Assoc., Inc. informs us that after prolonged negotiations between Marshall B. Coyne, owner of the building, the D.C. Rental Accommodations Office and the Association, a settlement has been reached. The following point in the settlement has an impact on the Foggy Bottom residential community:

The owner has agreed to return all units which had been rented on a transient basis to non-transient use. This means that units will be leased henceforth on a long-term basis, i.e., month-to-month, minimum.

March 1984

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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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Local News Elizabeth Charette
All announcements, letters, articles, etc., welcome but must be typed double spaced. Please include an evening phone number. Send to:

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

% West End Library
24th & L Sts., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Next issue deadline: April 7, 1984

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Are YOU a Member?

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Minutes of ANC Meeting February 7, 1984

Westin Hotel—A number of alleged violations have been brought to the attention of the ANC concerning the construction of a new hotel on square 24 (M & 24th Streets). These concerns focus on the apparent lack of permanent parking spaces, irregular loading docks and greater FAR than allowed by law. To look into these allegations the ANC passed resolutions B-1 to look into these concerns and B-2 to fund these investigations up to \$200. The former resolution set down guidelines that if the allegations were substantiated proper action by the Chair would begin. Representatives from the Zoning Administrator's Office, the Oliver T. Carr Company and the Westin Hotel were invited to attend this meeting. All declined the invitation.

Kaemfer Development: Commissioner Stamm recapped the special meeting of 1/25 in which the ANC reviewed architectural designs for a commercial building at the present site of the B & W garage (square 24). The allowed FAR in this CR zone is 3 residential and 3 commercial. What the developers wanted was a 4.5 FAR commercial. In return the facades (which were recommended by Tracerics as historically important) would be saved, part of the commercial space would include retail space and there would be open space in the back. No residential FAR would be constructed.

Gallinger Playground: Commissioner Molinelli re-

quested a resolution directing the Department of Recreation to clean up the playground. "The leaves of fall were still there!" Commissioner Stamm thought a letter rather than a resolution would work just as well.

Medical Clinics: The Dupont Circle residents are discovering how medical clinics are eliminating residential housing and they are trying to draft legislation to close this zoning loophole. They have asked for any support we could give them because we have experienced this problem for years. The Commission stated they would help.

Whitehurst Freeway: Commissioner Tyler announced that the Mayor had supported DOT and Thomas Downs in eliminating the tunnel segment of the Whitehurst Freeway from the environmental impact study. Because no federal funds can be allocated to plans without this kind of study the tunnel apparently is doomed without quick and assertive action. Commissioner Tyler reviewed the petitions and ANC resolutions favorable to studying the tunnel alternative. Coupled with the positive impact the tunnel would have to the safety and health of the neighborhood she hopes to convince the Mayor to change his mind. Along with Commissioner Stamm a draft letter outlining the above facts was read to the ANC for their approval. Public comments made on this subject came from Geoffrey

Tyler who thought the tunnel costs were never seriously and realistically projected and that there was the opportunity for the neighborhood to challenge the findings of DOT at the public hearings later this year. Jim Zais, Ward Two representative from the Office of Community Services, reminded the Commission that the Mayor did not make a frivolous decision that \$60,000 in additional expenses were made to specifically look at the East End (Foggy Bottom) of the highway and it was hard to justify capital expenditure money and transportation money on a tunnel which did not improve traffic conditions. Commissioner Levy suggested that Commissioner Tyler look into legal precedents to support her plea to the Mayor.

2521-23 K Street: The Cooper Houses: Rick Churchill discussed difficulties arising from the proposed demolition of two town houses at 2521-23 K Street, the Cooper Houses. Although declared an historic landmark by DON'T TEAR IT DOWN, the owner, Richard Cooper who had sought to demolish the houses cited hardship. After a number of informal discussions, both the neighborhood and Richard Cooper agreed that their difficulties should be settled by submitting their dispute to the American Arbitration Association. The problem will focus on whether the only way to address the debts on the estate is to demolish the structures or whether the structures can be saved and sold for a profit.

FRITZ GAITHER, LANDSCAPE GARDENER AT ST. MARY'S COURT, DIES

St. Mary's Court announced the death of Fritz Gaither on January 31. Mr. Gaither was a resident of the Court and a skilled landscape gardener who transformed the grounds of the Court into a garden known throughout the city. His efforts led to two successive awards for beautification of the grounds of St. Mary's Court by the Mayor's Citizens' Committee for Beautification.

Fritz was born in Norfolk in 1913 and attended William & Mary College in Williamsburg. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army in World War II and served in Germany. He was in the landscaping business for many years and was a member of the American Horticultural Society.

In the five years he resided at the Court, Fritz became a greatly loved friend and companion to residents and staff. He was also a devoted and active parishioner of St. Mary's Episcopal Church where he helped in the luncheon program before its transfer to the Court.

During the last year of his illness, Fritz trained Bruce Marshall, head of the Engineering Department at St. Mary's Court, in landscaping and gardening. It was this foresight which will enable us to continue to enjoy the gardens at St. Mary's Court.

Memorial services were held at St. Mary's Church, Monday, February 6, 1984 with the Rev. Fr. John E. Wilbur, Rector, officiating.

TAXES, TAXES— AND MORE TAXES

If you have been reading the papers you know that our dwindling dollar is about to get clobbered again. If, after reading the statement on page 4, you agree, in whole or in part, with Mary Healy's thoughts on the Mayor's proposed income tax increase for F.Y. 1985 you may want to address your thoughts to Councilman John A. Wilson, as Chairman of the Finance and Revenue Committee, with copies to the other F&R Committee Members. Don't delay; time is important. The other Committee Members are: Betty Ann Kane, H. R. Crawford, Polly Shackleton and Hilda Mason.

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STATEMENT BY MARY E. HEALY RE THE 1985 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Mayor's 1985 Budget cannot be accepted at face value. When the residents of the District of Columbia feel that the DC Government structure has been streamlined to the point where excellent services are provided in a timely manner with the maximum of efficiency by well trained, qualified and dedicated program directors, supervisors and general employees; when the residents are convinced that there is an absolute minimum of waste in our government operations; when we are convinced that special services are paid for by those persons needing them and not by the general population; and when we are convinced that disciplines of good management are in place throughout our government; then we can accept the Administration's budget with a feeling of assurance that what is requested is absolutely essential. We have not, as yet, reached that point.

The recommendation from the Mayor that a 7% surcharge be imposed on the present income tax is incredible. I have trouble thinking that the Mayor is really making this proposal. Therefore, in your Committee review I want you to know that I fully support your position that there should not be any tax increases. I object strenuously to further tax burdens. I am 70 years of age, a retiree of 12 years, a property owner, and a resident with responsibilities for pro-

viding for an aged mother so that should anything happen to me she will not be dependent on the government or relatives. I feel that I am taxed enough.

We, in DC, are already taxed to the hilt, causing many residents to do without some necessities of life in order to keep up the payment on their home mortgages or tax payments on their lifetime homes, to do only with bare necessities because their taxed incomes will not permit them to live comfortably and unafraid. Income taxes are already higher here than any place else in the nation. And, residents don't have as many opportunities, as in other areas, to work second jobs paying high salaries to help keep the wolf away from their doors. Our lack of industry and big business with high union wages precludes this. Of our approximately 635,000 residents I understand that there are only about half who pay income taxes—half of us are carrying the entire tax load. And the Administration is now proposing a further burden on the same group. I can't believe it!

As a matter of critical interest, the 1980 Census indicated 102,926 DC residents were 60 years or older. Approximately 82,000 of these retired when they were 62. Nationally, two-thirds of residents 65 or older own their own homes outright and are struggling desperately to maintain them. There is no reason to believe that this is

any different in the District of Columbia. Any additional tax, even though it is not a property tax, will kill them for sure. They will then have to ask for some form of public assistance and we start the vicious circle all over again—never catching up.

52,360 of the retirees in DC are federal workers or their survivors, with an average monthly annuity of \$1,127 for the 40,798 annuitants themselves (generally supporting two people) and \$501 per month for the 11,562 survivors—hardly a king's wages!!

Increased taxes aren't the answer to our problems—good management is. If taxes are increased, more and more income producing residents, plus those retirees with reasonably good annuities, will leave the city for states offering more benefits—leaving the District with only the very poor or the extremely rich who somehow seem to pay less taxes than the middle income bracket residents.

We must develop comparable metropolitan area taxes to keep people living in the District. We must develop a Retiree Tax Credit to keep those residents with their incomes here (just like the states do to attract them away from us). The Administration must be creative; they must figure other ways. The Welfare burden must be lessened; we must develop a Work-for-Welfare Program. The Mayor must look to streamlining the superstructures in his own organization, highly paid consultants must be used sparingly (we have DC employees qualified to do the same things we are paying consultants to do). The Administration must streamline its own house before imposing any more tax burdens on its residents. However, they must not do this at the expense of essential quality and timely provision of services; they are already too sparse.

I am speaking here specifically for myself but I feel certain that I am expressing the opinion of many many city residents.

I urge you, Mr. Wilson, as Chairman of the Finance and Revenue Committee, to continue to delve into the programs, submitted by the Mayor to the Council, for the purpose of trying to find ways and means to avoid tax increases which will further burden our residents. Anything that I can do to help in this effort, I will.

Respectfully,

Mary E. Healy
2475 Va. Ave., NW #329
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Tel. 337-3076
CC: All Finance & Revenue
Committee Members and
All other Council Members

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MEETING

Foggy Bottom Association Guest Speaker: Charles Fortney

Chief Real Property Assessments
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Monday


March 26, 1984

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8:00 PM

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ETHNIC ADVENTURE



By Elizabeth Charette

How do you make apple strudel? Do you buy a box of phyllo leaves at the supermarket and follow the recipe on the box? Not if you want real Austrian strudel! According to Frau Hilde Fehr, who owns the German Deli and Cafe Mozart at 1331 H Street NW, you must put the dough on a floured tablecloth and gently pull, stretch, and coax the dough until it is thinner than tissue paper and stretched to tremendous dimensions. After the filling is spread over the surface of the dough, you must pick up one side of the cloth without touching the dough itself (your hand would tear the dough) and nudge the cloth until the dough and filling roll over onto itself. What does this ineffable creation cost? \$5? \$3? Only \$1.50 for the luncheon size or \$1.75 for a dinner portion.

The German Deli-Cafe Mozart can satisfy all of your food needs. There is a carry-out service at the front of the combined deli-grocery as you enter. Here you can glimpse the bratwurst (pork and beef sausage) and snowy weisswurst (mild white veal and beef sausage) that contain no byproducts or fillers of any kind. Here, too, you can view the homemade desserts—strudels, vanilla kipferl (Austrian butter cookies), and cakes made with Droste's cocoa. Ninety-two more types of German and Swiss chocolates fill a third case.

They had always patronized the old Annapolis Deli on 11th Street, and when the elderly owner, incensed about a wrong shipment, offered to sell the deli to them, they began a new kind of partnership. When a customer complained that no sane German would ever expect to find a German deli in the phone book listed

under A, they promptly changed the name to the German Deli. In November 1982, they moved to their present location on H Street and began serving full meals to their customers.

"Originally, I never dreamed of or wanted a restaurant," laughs Frau Fehr.

She not only has a restaurant but offers concerts by the Washington Schrammel Quartet once a month as well. The ensemble includes two violins, a guitar, and an accordion and plays Viennese waltzes and wine tavern melodies from Viennese sheet music.

"This is not oompah-pah music, but music typical of the grinning section of Vienna," says Frau Fehr.

Reservations are very necessary, so call 347-5732 if you wish to attend the next performance. Enjoy a blissful night in Vienna without leaving Washington. The Cafe Mozart will pay half of your parking fee at the PMI Garage at 1301 N.Y. Avenue. Taxes are plentiful. The Cafe is open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Beyond the delicatessen stretches the Cafe Mozart. A bar serving imported Austrian beers and wines as well as domestic drinks flanks 37 tables that surround a grand piano adorned with a statue of young Mozart. Hefty luncheon specials are only \$4.10, and dinner entrees include Viennese beef goulash and three kinds of schnitzels.

Chef's special dinners at the Cafe Mozart are among the best buys in Washington. The night we were there, roast pork was \$7.95 and roast veal \$8.95. The veal was so tender that it separated when you touched it with a fork. All diners are served with a choice of various interesting accompaniments. Highly recom-

mended are the spaetzli (German noddles), the chunky bleu cheese dressing for the tossed salad, and the warm German unsalty sauerkraut. German breads, especially a thin-sliced, dark one full of wheat berries, are a welcome change from the ubiquitous basket of French bread.

Homemade cakes and pastries vie with the strudel for dessert. Dobosh Schnitte is a delicate seven-layered cake and Mokka Torte is filled with delicious mocha cream filling.

Even a bottle of one house wine, a dry riesling, was only \$12. Service is attentive and helpful.

But there's more. A live pianist adds to the homey ambience. Although you won't hear Mozart's music played, Figaro and Don Giovanni float and beam over the heads of the diners.

Frau Hilde Fehr came to the United States in 1956 to cook for the Austrian Embassy. Her future husband Max, from Switzerland, was hired three months later as the butler.

"I waited twenty-five years for a man with a short name (mine was too long) and no mother," chuckles Frau Fehr.

She and Max were married in Rockville, Maryland, and stayed here in America.

COURAGE, FAITH, AND THE CREATIVE SPIRIT COME TO FOGGY BOTTOM

By Elizabeth Charette

Take some silver icons, cover them with molten rubber, press the resulting rubber mold onto a canvas covered with a thick soup of earth-covered acrylics, add inspired design and dissident passion and you may approximate "Untitled", a mixed technique example of Soviet unofficial art by Evgeny Ruhkin. Ruhkin is one of 25 artists whose works were displayed in the Courage, Faith and the Creative Spirit exhibition at Foggy Bottom's Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, NW from 29 January to 17 February.

The Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents (CREED) sponsored the exhibition. CREED works to liberate imprisoned and oppressed believers and communicates directly with the persecuted.

Dr. Norton Dodge, a professor of economics at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, Maryland lent CREED 47 works of art from his collection of 2,000.

"I first went to the U.S.S.R. to do research for my dissertation on Soviet economics for Harvard University," he said. "The dissident literature of Pasternak, Solzhenitsyn, and others was finding its way to the West, but no one knew much about the unofficial artists, so I began to collect their art. I've made about 10 trips to the Soviet Union since then and know about 90 percent of these artists personally. All but two are living. Poor Ruhkin, who was an activist, died at 34 in a mysterious fire in his studio late at night."

Since art in the Soviet Em-

pire must educate people in the spirit of Communism, the Ministry of Culture, the Academy of Arts, and the Union of Artists control the life of the artist. Since the artists whose work appeared in the exhibition have decided to dedicate themselves to the creative spirit rather than to the goals of socialist society, their isolation and working conditions are severe. Working materials are scarce—paintings are thus generally smaller than those seen in contemporary exhibits of U.S. artists. Many works consist of separate panels, which when fitted together, compose a larger work. All of the works are highly symbolic, eschewing "the truthful depiction of reality in its revolutionary development" prescribed by the Soviet political system.

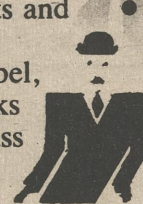
Subject matter ranges from "Moshe Walked Across All of Russia Because He Wanted to be Happy in America" (Evgeny Abezguas) to the mocking "Stop! Dangerous to Life" (Evgeny Ruhkin). Many works have religious themes. Samuil Rubashnin's "Passover" is a nostalgic primitive, while Lydia Masterkova's "Composition", oil and brocade on canvas, contains real pieces and tassels of priestly vestments. Vladimir Ovchinnikov's "The Cemetery" stuns the eye with triumphant Russian crosses.

Since we in the West know so little of these persecuted and oppressed people living behind the Iron Curtain, exhibitions such as Courage, Faith and the Creative Spirit help to remind us how irrepressible courage and faith are.

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The Increase of Hunger in America

by Nicki Lagoudakis & Candice Forbes

"... People go to soup kitchens because the food is free and that's easier than paying for it." (Edwin Meese, *Idaho Statesman*, December 15, 1983)

"If a stray dog is found wandering the streets, it is picked up and put to sleep. Unfortunately, we cannot put these 'human animals' to sleep, but we surely should not support and encourage their way of life." (Edwin Meese, *The Wall Street Journal*, November 12, 1982)

"I've heard a lot of anecdotal stuff, but I haven't heard any authoritative figures. And as a matter of fact, that's one of the reasons why the president appointed a task force on food assistance, to get to the bottom of some of the allegations, which have been unsubstantiated until now." (Edwin Meese, op cit)

Twenty Seattle food banks distributed 50,000 bags of goods to 160,000 individuals during the month of December, 1982. Of the recipients of the food, 65% were children and 20% were handicapped or elderly. This food distribution was an increase of 250% over December, 1981. During 1982, 11.7 million pounds of food were distributed through the food distribution network of King County in Washington.

In Baltimore 21 soup kitchens have been providing meals for the city's hungry. The Maryland Food Bank distributed 5.5 million pounds of food to 425 agencies throughout the state during 1982. In Washington, D.C., the Capital Area Community Food Bank distributed food to 265 agencies, which provide meals and food to 90,000 persons per month. Nationally, 44 food banks distributed 40 million pounds of food to 8,200 local agencies—excluding USDA commodities.

On December 29, 1983, 180 men lined up for a hot breakfast at Miriam's Kitchen, which is just 4 blocks from the White House. This number

has been an increase of 100 men per day since Miriam's Kitchen opened in October, 1983. At the East Harlem Interfaith Welfare Center, requests for emergency food supplies increased from 90 requests to 2,330 during the period from 1979 to 1982.

A survey conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported an increase in the number of persons using emergency food programs between February, 1982 and February, 1983. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the food programs surveyed showed an increase of 50% or more in the number of meals or food bags distributed. Thirty-two point two percent (32.2%) of the programs doubled in size over the same period of time. Food distribution programs showed larger increases than feed programs. More families with children and more unemployed workers used these emergency feed programs.

Lack of adequate food and medical care can be debilitating to any age group, but it is especially hard on the very young. A recent Boston health study, prompted by concerned pediatricians, reported that 10,000-17,500 children below school age may be chronically malnourished. Infant mortality rates have increased in 13 states, Detroit's rate is about the same as Honduras, the poorest nation in Central America.

According to the Children's Defense Fund, since President Reagan took office, \$10 million has been cut from Medicaid funding; and from 1980-1982, the number of children living in poverty increased by one-sixth; the number of poor rose to 35 million, the highest since 1965. Twenty-seven percent of poor children are not covered by Medicaid; three out of five lack basic immunizations.

Loss of financial support for school lunch programs and school breakfasts add to the expenses of low-income families, who, if receiving food

stamps, received 13% less this year (in dollars adjusted to inflation).

These figures indicating an increase in use of emergency food and shelter programs are repeated in city after city across the country. Records kept by the agencies providing the services reflect an increase in the use of the services by families with children and by the current unemployed. Despite comments to the contrary, hunger is rising in the United States. It has become not only a political and economic issue but a moral one as well.

For Christians there is always the question of how much of oneself to give. Is leading a good life going to church on Sunday enough? Why not?

If one looks to the New Testament for an ethics regarding Christian responsibility, the mandate Jesus gives is clear: see God in your brother; do not distinguish between serving God and other people for somehow they are the same. We are to actively love. Jesus is clear and never wavers on this point: we have no right to indifference in the face of hunger, sickness, loneliness.

In Matthew 25:31 following in the context of discussing the great judgment, the righteous ask, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee?" (verses 38 & 39). And the King will answer, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." How powerful and theologically weighty are these words. It is our ethical responsibility as Christians to clothe the poor, feed the hungry. Passively sitting through Christian sermons is not enough; we are told to love actively and that means going out of our way for others less advantaged.

Actively helping those who are hungry, thirsty, homeless or in need of other necessities may be accomplished in several ways. Soup kitchens and shelters need volunteers as do food pantries and community food banks. Spending a few hours a week or a month with those in need provides direct contact with faceless numbers and statistics and provides the opportunity to develop an understanding of the humans who comprise those numbers and statistics. To learn more about the agencies with which you might donate some of your time and abilities, contact your church, local department of human services, or your community food bank. If your community lacks these services and you are interested in starting a program, some practical guidelines are available by writing to Seeds, 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

CRIME WATCH

by Bob Alcorn

Those of you who attended the meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association on January 30 heard a very interesting report from our police department, met one of the police officers assigned to work with the street people and met the new Captain.

We heard that crime had gone up somewhat and the figures included a number of apartment robberies one of which was due to a door having been left open. Another was due to a window being left open. Please check your door when you leave and do close windows particularly if you live on a lower story and especially if your windows overlook a roof or a balcony. Remember, the thief can go right out your door and wander throughout the rest of the building as long as he or she is not seen and in most cases can leave by a back exit without detection.

We heard that there have been thefts from automobiles... mostly those of non-residents who still persist in leaving things exposed in the back seats of their cars. To add to this, I was informed that there have been attempts to break into car trunks in the area of Hughes Mews so I would advise all of you to check your cars which might be left parked for awhile to see if they and their contents are intact.

I am still seeing notes on apartment house doors telling people to use keys to get in to keep warm while the tenant is at the store etc. In each case the resident manager has been told and the key taken away. Please be more careful... the life you save may be your own.

We owe our neighbors in the 900 block of 25th Street and the 900 block of 26th more thanks for turning on outside lights when the street lights were off. It is very reassuring to see light on those blocks particularly with all the ice etc. and especially when you realize that electric power is very expensive but our neighbors value our safety more than their pocketbooks. Whenever there is a power problem the Zelinkas, Anne Lomas and their neighbors always light up 25th Street for us.

I have received several reports of children seen throwing bits of brick and rock down onto the underpass at 24th Street. They do not realize that if they break a windshield they could startle a driver and cause a bad accident. Should you see such "a little dear" call 911 right away. Perhaps a visit to our local police station might tell him he is doing wrong.

I am still receiving calls from people who never knew that there was a Neighborhood Crime Watch, never

read the Foggy Bottom News, and wonder why we are not doing something about crime. If you hear such a story from a person, don't chastize him or her but rather take a few minutes to tell that person what is going on and how to reach me for more information.

How about more support from our residents south of Virginia Avenue and North of L Street. We can not get our signs until all of our area is with us and people bond together to fight crime as a unified body. Officer Clark is very strong on that point. Tom Miller and Richard Price can not work alone at Knightsbridge Court or the Westbridge nor can the few at Columbia Plaza do more than scratch the surface. Our goal is to get our Neighborhood Watch signs up before summer... and we still have too many buildings left unmanned to get them. We cannot keep looking to the city, the police department, or John Wilson to help us if we do not help ourselves first. We all have worked too hard to build a wonderful neighborhood to live in to stop short and not push for Neighborhood Watch. Officer Clark and her colleagues give up their free evenings to come down and talk to us. Lieutenant Herbert is always in our midst. Officer Lee is a presence in our neighborhood. The Captain is constantly adding to our safety so why not show our thanks by proving to them we really care and want a very tight Neighborhood Watch. Do we want to wait for serious crime attacks before some of us get out of our comfortable chairs? Are we saying in effect, "let someone else do the work, I don't get involved?" "Our building has such a good security system, a mouse could not sneak in." I have been told all of these... and... some of these have been proven wrong. Organize now and be prepared. Once those signs are up, the whole neighborhood can be proud of them. See you at the next FBA meeting?

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TO SEE YOUR HOME GO UP IN REAL ESTATE

by Karen Jaehne

It started with seeing the razing of the Immaculate Conception School. Like most immaculate conceptions, it just wasn't long for this world. But to realize we live in a town that can evict nuns from Monday to Friday! Well, what special circle of Lonsdale's Inferno is reserved for them?

The name Lonsdale drifted across my consciousness one brisk afternoon, with a call from a Foggy Bottom neighbor, whinnying, "Well, you should get a good price for the house." The insinuation was that I personally somehow would benefit and, secondarily, that I personally was going to sell out, which is, I believe, the phrase I would have used as a wild-eyed college student—and therefore would, in the matters of Foggy Bottom real estate, still use. The fact of the matter is that I will receive nothing on the sale of the house, and I am so personally distressed at seeing my former home turned into real estate that I feel I must risk baring my ragged domestic heart to the discreetly shuttered windows of my old neighborhood.

The little yellow house on 24th Street had been tromped through, inspected and rejected by nearly everyone in the neighborhood, as I was given to understand, by the time the Lathams came along and blithely took it with all its faults in a direct sale by the owner. It was not an investment. It was a home. And although the former point was much debated as Mr. Latham looked for reassurance that his money had not been squandered on his wife's whim of

living in the city, all the good neighbors assured him that he would, at the very least, possibly get his money back. Even in a flattened out real estate market. His head never rested easy in that house.

Good advice about the resale value of the house always hinged on the assumption that it would remain a home. Well, it ceased to be a home in September, 1983, and became a rental. With the levelling of the school next door, whose inhabitants had been such good and good-natured neighbors, its investment value was written on the wall. It was only a matter of time before somebody tested the price of "selling-out." Predictably, the first phone call came from a hand-wringing ANC rep. Subsequent phone calls will have to be trans-Atlantic and, presumably, offer more. That's not up to me.

Meanwhile, it's difficult to separate one's feeling of loss: loss of family, loss of home, loss of community, and loss of a sense of belonging to something that is intensely endangered. One can contrast, of course, the self-indulgence of a small family ensconced in middle-class complacency on a piece of real estate with its conversion into apartments or offices that would mean more money and perhaps (?) more residents into the neighborhood. That kind of value-judgment is at the very core of Foggy Bottom's self-image, an image that is constantly challenged by developers, not to mention "changing lifestyles."

For whatever reason I may not live in the little yellow house anymore, it will always

be a "little house on the prairie" to me, a home I cared for and would have preferred to pass on to other home-dwellers, rather than suburban-dwelling urban-developers. The crucial issue remains that of "home rule," if you will. Do the people in Foggy Bottom have a say in how their neighborhood develops? Is there more than money at stake? Or is urbanization so overwhelming that those of us who tried to create our own little suburbia complete with kids and playgrounds (however disputed!) must concede that we live in a fantasy world, inherited from our own suburban past? That we want the best of both worlds? If so, we're going to have to pay for it—or, in some cases, *not be paid* for it.

I have no further stake in all this, unless memory counts. If it is to be destroyed, that memory certainly degenerates into nostalgia until Foggy Bottom begins to look like the kitch of "Our Town" cuddled at the feet of the Watergate, hoping for pity, alms, and preservation. The many losses at 942 24th St. are nothing more than symptomatic of Foggy Bottom's very tenuous hold both on and in the real world.

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The brochure also lists year-round activities including the plays offered by Adventure Theatre and the art shows currently on view in the Glen Echo Gallery.

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Academy

continued from front page

Archdiocesan office, workers from Providence Hospital, and Kane Movers.

"Everyone was so kind," said Sister Helen. "Kane Movers worked until midnight the first day. They sent 19 extra men and four vans. It took 36 trips to move everything."

Sister Marcella, a superhuman organizer, had numbered 500 boxes of materials so that they could be delivered to the correct rooms in the new building. But there were unexpected mishaps.

"Why, Sister Marcella came in to my office to use the phone," said Father James Daughtry, rector of St. Paul's Church, K Street, "and not only had her phone been cut off but the roof of the convent had been smashed in—before the nuns could move out!"

On Sunday afternoon, the sisters discovered that their beautiful statue of Our Lady had been stolen from the yard. This statue had adorned the school since 1958. Disconsolate, the sisters advertised in all the newspapers that if anyone could return the statue, no questions would be asked. Two weeks after the move, residents at 13 Snow's Court phoned the school to report that the statue had been left in their yard. Sister Marcella and three men picked up Our Lady. She was scratched and dirty but not broken.

The demolition is over. The corner has been leveled. According to Jeff Stamm, chairman of the Advisory Neighborhood Committee, the purchaser is a partnership consisting of the Lipnick Construction Company and some elements of the Cafritz Company.

Paul Interdonato, lawyer involved in the sale for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington said, "I have no idea what they're going to do with the property."

Benjamin Weiner, a partner in the Lipnick Construction Company said, "We haven't decided yet what we're going to build. Every day we have meetings trying to decide what would be best for the community and good for us. I assure you it will be Class A construction—the top type."

"I'll let you know when we decide," said Mr. Weiner.

Meanwhile, trucks are busily removing bricks and rubble.

"What's going up? Another apartment building like that one over there further down on 24th Street," said one of the workmen. "I'm sure. The owner told me so."

Whatever goes up cannot erase the memory of the academy and the sisters. ICA—the neighborhood misses you!

(Editor's note: See related article page 7)

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Some Thoughts on Film and History

by Karen Jaehne

Two new films take a historical perspective on the transitory nature of human endeavor and the abiding nature of art, all of which sounds highfalutin' but provides two film experiences which most film buffs will welcome. Even the non-film buff as an opportunity to discover something interesting and informative—and, dare we expect it?—up-lifting!

The new Federico Fellini film, *AND THE SHIP SAILS ON*, is as much fun to see as to hear. This lyrical and lugubrious film is very, very, very funny, but don't expect to har har too loudly. Under Fellini's direction, the world will end in a giggle not a guffaw. The film is about a troupe of operatic buffoons who board a ship with the ashes of a deceased diva to sail away into the Adriatic and conduct her funeral in truly operatic style. The year is 1914, and an archduke has just been assassinated; the Balkans are in an uproar, but one would think that this eccentric assembly is the only thing happening in the world. We are even guided through the gossip and the glamour by a journalist on board, a sort of proto-*People* magazine touch, making the frivolity of our obsessions with who's who appear all the more ephemeral.

The buffoonery of opera is also mocked, but done so with Italian charm. (One must know what it's all about in order to get away with what Fellini so deftly essays here.) Whether you like opera or not, or for that matter, history!, *AND THE SHIP SAILS ON* ought to keep you

from despairing at the silliness of human nature in the face of certain annihilation. Vacuity is its own reward.

Addressing yet another war, *THE DRESSER* takes a similarly oblique view of "art" as a survival technique. In the vein of "there will always be an England" we are shown the efforts of a sincere, if certifiable, Shakespearean actor, whose burden it is to sustain both the Bard and Britain while the bombs pour down. Albert Finney seems to be in line for Sir Laurence Olivier's laurels, and delivers a tremendous performance as an actor gone mad. It is the job of his dresser (Tom Courtenay) to pull together the thread-bare soul of the actor, obsequiously called "Sir," and to get him on stage with the make-up and the character of Lear. We share in that struggle, which becomes synonymous with the British struggle to maintain or retain its dignity in the face of the irrationality of WWII. "Herr Hitler," says the actor, "has made our job most difficult."

Addressing film and history from quite a different perspective last week at the AFI's "Patricia Wise Lecture" was the worthy historian (and film critic) Arthur Schlesinger. In his analysis of film's impact on history, rather than its "impressions" of history, Schlesinger cited the screening of *BIRTH OF A NATION* as the first Presidential screening. Then Chief-of-State Wilson remarked, "It's like writing history with lightning." Whether that was a compliment, coming from a historian like Wilson, remains to be clarified.

Bus Ban

continued from front page

residential neighborhoods, and the resultant need to maintain peace and safety in those neighborhoods, the hotel must operate within the policy guidelines."

The outcome of the hearing is a major step forward in our struggle to preserve our residential neighborhood, and a landmark in our community's strive to maintain and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. I would like to put on record the debt that we all owe to those who gave unstintingly of their time and contributions over the long period from our initial approach to DOT in early 1980. It is impossible to list all the many persons who were involved, but I would particularly mention the assistance of John Wilson and Jerry Moore (D.C. Council) and Seward Cross and Tom Downs (DOT—Tom Downs since having been promoted to Deputy Mayor for Operations). Special mention should also be made of the enormous work done by Lila Roper (my special assistant at the time), and our thanks must also go to our lawyer, Dan Haslam, who argued our case

with great skill. Equally, Murdaugh Madden, who made himself a party to the case, gave invaluable legal support throughout the proceedings. Financial support from ANC 2A and the FBA and from a very large number of residents of our community was of crucial importance. Finally, I should mention that all Foggy Bottom meetings at which Mayor Barry was present and I spoke to him about the case he always indicated that he supported the bus ban which was then already in effect.

The bus ban is important not only in itself but also as a wider example of what we can do as a community to safeguard our legitimate rights as residents. It shows that we must be vigilant to protect our rights and that we can successfully do so only by being willing to put in hard work, and financial resources. Mr. Andretta writes in his opinion that the "Foggy Bottom area is a unique and special part of the city." The results of the bus ban hearing give us further courage to continue our work to keep our residential neighborhood that way.

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Schlesinger finds the relationship between history and film perilously incestuous, now that movie stars are making history through the policies they create. These policies, according to Schlesinger, are not quite as immediately influenced as that legendary, if not fabled, decision on the part of one President, who saw PATTON twice in order to get up the nerve to invade Cambodia. No, the movie myths that we remember from the Capra and Howard Hawks films inform current decision-making. The collective myth, for example, of the Norman Rockwellian small town still pervades the attitudes and justifications of domestic policy, with the kind of home-spun philosophy that emanated from the silver screen of the Thirties and Forties.

Even worse is the "White-hat, black-hat" myth that dominates American foreign policy, says Schlesinger, with an abiding belief in a rescue in the Eleventh Hour by the 9th Cavalry. These myths have

unfortunately outlived America's reality, which is dominantly urban and impoverished, as unbelievable as that may be in Hollywood or Foggy Bottom. For example, Schlesinger points to figures showing that less than 5% of America's millions live now in towns of fewer than 5,000; while another 7% lives in towns from 5 to 10,000. Since urban blight is the rule, not the exception, it is time for Americans to face up to equally alarming films like *PRINCE OF THE CITY*, *M*A*S*H* and such that reflect our current sensibility, not our nostalgia.

Finally, Schlesinger pointed out, "The job of statesmanship is not to act out old myths." If Mr. Schlesinger's critique of "movie-made America" seems harsh, let's not dismiss it as mere film criticism, unless we are convinced that the current administration is just another case of life imitating art. In Reagan's movie, the world will end with a bang, not a whimper.

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